

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the first Office Action herein, which Action was dated January 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected all claims in the application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,158,449 to Sun et al.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the single cited and applied prior art reference, the Examiner's comments, and the specification, claims, abstract and drawings in the instant case, proposes certain modest changes in currently amended claims 1 and 6, introduces by this Amendment a new claim 10, and asserts that, contrary to the Examiner's conclusion of unpatentability, all claims now present in this application are clearly distinguishable over the cited and applied reference, and are therefore patentable.

Applicant is, frankly, quite surprised, and somewhat mystified, at the Examiner's assertion that the Sun et al. patent reference provides a full anticipation of applicant's claims. This reference very clearly has nothing whatsoever to do with filtering a fluid-flow air stream directed into the *electrical sliding-contact zone* in an aircraft's *electrical generating device*, let alone recognizing such a sliding-contact zone, unfiltered, puts an electrical generator's armature surface, in some instances, at severe risk of catastrophic wear. To the best of applicant's knowledge, nowhere in the relevant prior art is there any appreciation, at any level, that the aircraft-relevant electrical problem discerned by applicant, and addressed by the present invention, even exists.

Not a single component of electrical equipment, let alone *an electrical generating device with an electrical sliding-contact zone*, is pictured or mentioned in the Sun et al. reference.

The operating environment disclosed in this reference is substantially fully illustrated in Fig. 1, and is absolutely limited to the mechanical-power flow path provided in an aircraft turbine engine for the working passage of intake and exhaust-drive air. There is no rotary electrical generating device in this power-flow confined environment, no electrical sliding-contact zone, and no fluid-flow conduit structure extending between intake and discharge ends with the discharge end disposed to direct intaken, filtered air flow into such an electrical sliding-contact zone.

The Examiner's representation regarding the disclosure content of the Sun et al. reference is plainly mistaken, Not a single operatively claimed element in applicant's claims, relating to protecting the electrical sliding-contact zone in an electrical generating device, is found in this reference.

Applicant's claims, as originally presented, and as now framed in relation to certain modest rephrasing which has been introduced into the two currently amended claims, and as is expressed in new claim 11, definitively and positively describe an operative structural and functional relationship between (a) fluid-flow conduit structure which is dedicated to filtering particles in a fluid flow headed directly into the electrical sliding-contact zone in an electrical generating device, and (b) that specific kind of a thus-protected sliding-contact zone *per se*. No such structures or relationships are shown, described, or even hinted at in the Sun et al. reference. For these reasons, applicant strongly asserts that the Sun at al. reference is most definitively not a reference that provides any basis for asserting § 102 anticipation of applicant's claims.

Accordingly, applicant asserts that all claims now presented in this application are clearly distinguishable over the cited reference, and are therefore patentable, and respectfully

solicits favorable reconsideration of this application, and early allowance now of all claims presented therein. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Applicant hereby requests an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. A PTO Form 2038 in the amount of \$60.00 is enclosed to pay the one-month extension fee for a small entity. A second PTO Form 2038 in the amount of \$100.00 is enclosed to pay the fee for a single excess independent claim. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

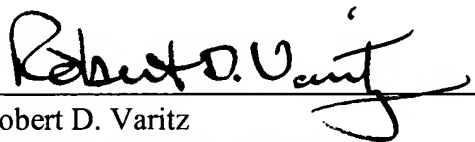
Customer Number

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Respectfully Submitted,

ROBERT D. VARITZ, P.C.

Registration No: 31436
Telephone: 503-720-1983
Facsimile: 503-233-7730


Robert D. Varitz
2007 S.E. GRANT STREET
Portland, Oregon 97214

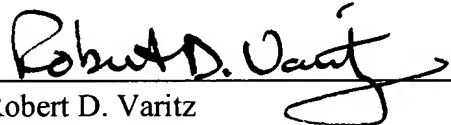


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I hereby certify that the attached Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and two PTO Form 2038 credit card authorizations in the amounts of \$60.00 + \$100.00 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450


Robert D. Varitz